

bill and before there was a conference; and now we are not going to have a conference.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I think the urgency of getting this job done is very, very great. If there were issues that were not discussed between this body and the other body, I think the gentleman's representation would be correct. But all of these issues were discussed.

I think a conference would merely delay passing powers that law enforcement vitally needs. We have done a good job in balancing the need for stronger law enforcement powers and civil liberties. I would urge support of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SWEENEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3162.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed until tomorrow.

□ 2030

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SWEENEY) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, October 23, 2001.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on October 23, 2001 at 4:44 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he submits the FY 2000 Annual Report of the Railroad Retirement Board.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAH, L,
Clerk of the House.

ANNUAL REPORT OF RAILROAD RETIREMENT BOARD FOR FISCAL YEAR 2000—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PLATTS) laid before the House the following message from the President of

the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Ways and Means:

To the Congress of the United States:

I transmit herewith the Annual Report of the Railroad Retirement Board for Fiscal Year 2000, pursuant to the provisions of section 7(b)(6) of the Railroad Retirement Act and section 12(1) of the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act.

GEORGE W. BUSH,
THE WHITE HOUSE, October 23, 2001.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

DISTRICT IN CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to be back here where I feel most at home, on the House floor, and have felt that way for more than a decade now, especially tonight when we have had an Earth-shattering experience here in the District, just when the 600,000 people who live here were getting a grip. I speak, of course, of the death of two postal workers unexpectedly that has come down upon us.

Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor also to say that no city has had a greater number of direct consequences from the September 11 attack than the District of Columbia: The closure of National Airport; the shutdown of our major industry, tourism, the only real industry we have got here except government; the closure of the House; anthrax scares and now anthrax deaths. Like most of you, I know my constituents look to me, they have to look to me for leadership, especially in times of crisis. I am trying to help my people move on to avoid panic, and I need the help of this House and of the entire Congress.

My folks are being very brave when you consider what they have encountered. I have just come from D.C. General Hospital where Majority Leader DASCHLE, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. MIKULSKI of Maryland, Mayor Williams, and all of us gathered to inspect the facility where postal workers are receiving Cipro. We pray for the families of those who have died from Brentwood and of those who have come down with the disease there and on the Hill.

I must tell you that the postal workers there were amazingly calm, in their uniforms, simply ready to get their

Cipro and go on with their work. But, Mr. Speaker, the 24-hour cable and the announcement that health officials have to make, public officials have to make, warning postal workers and Americans of danger have eclipsed any messages that we are Americans and we have got to go on with our lives and not be terrorized by terror.

The leadership role those of us in the Congress, all of us who are public officials, must play in times like this compels us to help our people get their balance, avoid paralysis, panic, and pain. We have got to start reminding our folks not only of the danger but that most of us are safe.

Yes, I am struggling with the grief of two who died here; but at the same time, I tell my people that the two who died here of anthrax which gives flu-like symptoms, that 10,000 die of flu every year. We have got to put this into some perspective or else we are simply going to help paralyze our own people. We have got to remind them that the Nation's capital is the best protected city in the world notwithstanding the anthrax deaths. We have got to help the people of this city and of the United States get past this. We have got to help them understand that the House and the Senate and the Congress will soon be safe enough for all to come and see.

Above all, we have got to send a message that yes, school children can come again to their Nation's capital and can come to their Congress. I ask for your help in getting out to the people of this city and to the American people messages of reassurance that all now hunger for.

AIRPORT SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. RAMSTAD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, ground zero is still burning while the House is fiddling. Six weeks have passed since terrorists attacked America by hijacking four airplanes. Six weeks have passed since that deadly day, September 11, 2001, in which terrorists attacked the United States of America. Six weeks have passed since nearly 6,000 Americans and other people perished in the deadliest day in the history of American soil.

Mr. Speaker, it is high time House leaders let the Members vote on the bipartisan aviation security bill, H.R. 2951, which I have cosponsored with the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. GANSKE) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS). It is high time Congress acts to protect the American people from future terrorist hijackings.

We need to pass this bipartisan bill, because it provides the flexibility to hire a combination of Federal, State, and local law enforcement personnel to